

The Castro Delays Go On and On

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What was to have been Premier Fidel Castro's final meeting with James B. Donovan over the release of the 1,113 Cuban invasion prisoners was cancelled abruptly last night by Castro.

There was no immediate indication as to when the two would get together.

Earlier in the day Mr. Donovan, a New York lawyer, told the Herald Tribune by telephone that he expected his next meeting with Castro to be the last before the deal was closed.

He also said no cash was involved. "... my negotiations do not involve one dollar in cash. My negotiations are based solely on pledges of food and medicine."

Mr. Donovan, who is representing Cuban exile groups in his talks with Castro, made it clear he planned to stay in Havana until Castro kept that final appointment.

In Miami, meanwhile, various government and non-government groups continued to make preparations to receive the liberated men but it was anybody's guess as to when that would be.

Government spokesmen in Washington said that since the Cuban Families Committee for the Liberation of Prisoners of War is the agency principally involved, an official comment was not justified.

In the hodge-podge of rumor and report, there remained a flock of unanswered questions:

¶ Since Castro had originally demanded a \$62 million cash deal, was he really considering

Mr. Donovan's offer of food and drugs?

¶ Was it true that the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington was prepared to put up cash if Castro is adamant?

¶ If Castro were to get food and drugs, where were they coming from and who was going to pay for them?

¶ If Mr. Donovan is successful, how would the supplies be shipped to Cuba? Ships flying the United States flag have not engaged in trade with that country for more than a year. A new policy decision would impose penalties on any vessels carrying cargoes to the island.

Regarding this latter point, the International Longshoremen's Association became involved yesterday.

Boycott Plan

ILA President Capt. William V. Bradley announced in New York that a stepped-up boycott against any ships in Cuban or Russian trade would go into effect soon. If this happened, dockers presumably would not handle any cargo bound for Communist ports. Of course, exceptions could be made in the case of ransom for the Castro prisoners.

At any rate, Castro isn't Mr. Donovan's only problem. He has been suffering from bursitis in his right shoulder ever since arriving in Havana. He got injections there to deaden the pain.